

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A chemically modified double stranded short interfering nucleic acid RNA (siRNA) molecule (siRNA) comprising a sense strand and an antisense strand wherein:
 - a. each strand of said siNA-siRNA molecule is about 18 to about 27 nucleotides in length; and
 - b. the antisense strand of said siNA-siRNA molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence of about 18 to about 27 nucleotides that is complementary to a portion of an Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) RNA encoded by SEQ ID NO: 674; and
 - c. the sense strand is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises a portion of said HBV RNA of about 18 to about 27 nucleotides; and
 - d. about 100% of the nucleotides in one or both strands of said siNA-siRNA molecule are chemically modified nucleotides.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The siNA-siRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein said siNA-siRNA molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Currently Amended) The siNASiRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in said sense strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.
15. (Currently Amended) The siNASiRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in said sense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
16. (Currently Amended) The siNASiRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at a 5'-end, a 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends of the sense strand.
17. (Currently Amended) The siNASiRNA molecule of claim 16, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.
18. (Currently Amended) The siNASiRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in said antisense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
19. (Currently Amended) The siNASiRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in said antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.
20. (Currently Amended) The siNASiRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in said antisense strand comprise 2'-deoxy[f-] purine nucleotides.
21. (Currently Amended) The siNASiRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein said antisense strand comprises a terminal phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of said antisense strand.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Currently Amended) The siNA_nsiRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein said antisense strand includes a terminal phosphate group.
31. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising the siNA_nsiRNA molecule of claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
32. (Canceled)
33. (Currently Amended) The siNA_nsiRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein said chemically modified nucleotides have one or more chemical modifications selected from the groups consisting of phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage, 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotide, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro ribonucleotide, 2'-deoxy ribonucleotide, universal base nucleotide, 5-C-methyl nucleotide, and inverted deoxyabasic modifications.